WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An antibody or antibody fragment capable of specifically neutralizing an interferon gamma inducing factor.

2. The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody is monoclonal.

3. The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody is humanized.

4. The antibody of claim 1, wherein said interferon gamma inducing factor is IL-18.

5. A method of inducing protective immunity against a T-cell mediated autoimmune disease, the method comprising administering to an individual having the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease or being predisposed thereto, cells being capable of producing and secreting an antibody capable of neutralizing an interferon gamma inducing factor thereby inducing protective immunity against the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease in said individual.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the antibody is humanized.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, type I diabetes, uveoretinitis, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

8. A method of inducing protective immunity against a T-cell mediated autoimmune disease, the method comprising administering to an individual having the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease or being predisposed thereto, an antibody capable of neutralizing an interferon gamma inducing factor thereby inducing protective immunity against the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease in said individual.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the antibody is humanized.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, type I diabetes, uveoretinitis, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

11. An article-of-manufacturing comprising packaging material and a pharmaceutical composition being identified for use in inducing protective immunity against a T-cell mediated autoimmune disease, said pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an antibody being capable of binding an interferon gamma inducing factor.

12. The article-of-manufacturing of claim 11, wherein the antibody is humanized.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, type I diabetes, uveoretinitis, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

14. A method of inducing protective immunity against multiple sclerosis, the method comprising administering to an individual having the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease or being predisposed thereto, a nucleic acid construct including a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide being capable of eliciting in said individual formation of antibodies capable of neutralizing an interferon gamma inducing factor thereby inducing protective immunity against multiple sclerosis in said individual.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said nucleic acid construct also includes one or more transcription control sequences operatively linked to said polynucleotide sequence.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said transcription control sequences are selected from the group consisting of RSV control sequences, CMV control sequences, retroviral LTR sequences, SV-40 control sequences and β-actin control sequences.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein said nucleic acid construct is an eukaryotic expression vector.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein said nucleic acid construct is selected from the group consisting of pcDNA3, pcDNA3.1(+/-), pZeoSV2(+/-), pSecTag2, pDisplay, pEF/myc/cyto, pCMV/myc/cyto, pCR3.1, pCI, pBK-RSV, pBK-CMV, pTRES and their derivatives.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein said nucleic acid construct is administered to said individual parenterally.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein said individual is a human being.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein said nucleic acid construct is administered to said individual via a viral vector.

22. A method of inducing protective immunity against a T-cell mediated autoimmune disease, the method comprising:

(a) obtaining cells of an individual;

(b) introducing into said cells a nucleic acid construct including a polynucleotide sequence encoding an interferon gamma inducing factor or an immunogenic portion thereof to thereby generate genetically modified cells expressing and optionally secreting said interferon gamma inducing factor or said immunogenic portion thereof; and

(c) reintroducing said genetically modified cells to said individual thereby inducing protective immunity against the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease in said individual.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said nucleic acid construct also includes one or more transcription control sequences operatively linked to said polynucleotide sequence.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said transcription control sequences are selected from the group consisting of RSV control sequences, CMV control sequences, retroviral LTR sequences, SV-40 control sequences and β-actin control sequences.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein said nucleic acid construct is an eukaryotic expression vector.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein said nucleic acid construct is selected from the group consisting of pcDNA3, pcDNA3.1(+/-), pZeoSV2(+/-), pSecTag2, pDisplay, pEF/myc/cyto, pCMV/myc/cyto, pCR3.1, pCI, pBK-RSV, pBK-CMV, pTRES and their derivatives.

27. The method of claim 22, wherein said individual is a human being.

28. The method of claim 22, wherein the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, type I diabetes, uveoretinitis, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

29. An article-of-manufacturing comprising packaging material and a pharmaceutical composition being identified for use in inducing protective immunity against a T-cell mediated autoimmune disease, said pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a nucleic acid construct including a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide being capable of

eliciting formation of antibodies capable of neutralizing an interferon gamma inducing factor.

30. The article-of-manufacturing of claim 29, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is selected from the group consisting of an aqueous physiologically balanced solution, an artificial lipid-containing substrate, a natural lipid-containing substrate, an oil, an ester, a glycol, a virus and metal particles.

31. The article-of-manufacturing of claim 29, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises a delivery vehicle that delivers said nucleic acid construct to said individual.

32. The article-of-manufacturing of claim 31, wherein said delivery vehicle is selected from the group consisting of liposomes, micelles, and cells.

33. The article-of-manufacturing of claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid construct is an eukaryotic expression vector.

34. The article-of-manufacturing of claim 29, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is formulated suitable for parenteral administration to a human.

35. The method of claim 29, wherein the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, type I diabetes, uveoretinitis, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

36. The use of an anti interferon gamma inducing factor antibody in the treatment of a T-cell mediated autoimmune disease.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the T-cell mediated autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, type I diabetes, uveoretinitis, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.